

✓ 18 * 290304
Latimer, Becky

From: Latimer, Becky
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 10:02 AM
To: _____
Subject: 2019-290-WS

Dear Thomas Tarsitano,

Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2019-290-WS - Application of Blue Granite Water Company for Approval to Adjust Rate Schedules and Increase Rates

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2019-290-WS - Application of Blue Granite Water Company for Approval to Adjust Rate Schedules and Increase Rates <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/117247>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Becky Latimer



* Required Fields

Letter of Protest

Docket No. 2019-290-WS

Date: * 02/08/2020

Protestant Information:

Name *

Thomas Tarsitano

Mailing Address *

City, State Zip *

Lake Wylie, SC

Phone

E-mail

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? * For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am a customer of BGW

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. * (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

This company charges the highest rates for water. Research shows BGW rates are higher here than anywhere in CA. They have failed as a company to provide Adequate service. Their water line failure rate and water boil advisory per capita is astronomically high. This is clearly a company that has failed to plan for future growth and a company that even with some of the highest water and waste rates in the country is unable to provide a necessary service. Why should we believe this incompetent company will do any better by raising our rates even higher. I believe the state or county should take over service from this incompetent company! Do not allow them to steal more money.

3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding, if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? *

Yes, I would like to appear and speak at the February 20th hearing in Clover, SC

Signature Required: Thomas Tarsitano

Latimer, Becky

From: Latimer, Becky
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 10:01 AM
To: _____
Subject: 2019-290-WS

Dear Sherly Molea,

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Sincerely,
Becky Latimer



* Required Fields

Letter of Protest
Docket No. 2019-290-WS

Date: * 02/08/2020

Protestant Information:

Name * Sheryl Molea
Mailing Address *
City, State Zip * Lake Wylie, SC Phone *
E-mail *

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? * For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am a customer, with no choice.

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. * (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

The cost of the service is already over priced. I have yet to find out the break down on the fixed price. The pricing structure should be on a basis of usage. The fixed cost is give a customer no flexibility on trying to reduce the cost by usage

Please see attached.

3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding , if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? *

I work full time but plan to attend a meeting on February 20, 2020 in York County 6 congress St.

Signature Required: Sheryl Molea

Good Afternoon,

In November 2017, moved to a new community in Lake Wylie, SC. 29710. Many residents in my part of the neighborhood phase seem to be empty nesters (retirement age). Therefore, many are on a set income. My guess is that they probably own their homes outright. There are others that may be new families who have many expenses of providing the necessities for their children.

Why am I telling you? I have lived in Massachusetts and North Carolina. I have never experienced the water bills that I am receiving from Blue Granite, previously Utilities, Inc. When I first arrived, I felt the water was outrageous. Then after 6 months or so, utilities had a rate increase, it was effective June 2018. They then changed ownership or names, to BlueGranite and they are now proposing another rate hike, one year later.

They currently charge the \$80 fixed every month before you even use one once of water.¹

\$14.38 – I was told just for the connect

\$65.08 - I was told water testing and maintenance of the infrastructure

Variable, customer can control 7.55 /1,000 gallons.

This is a 30% increase (\$240-\$330 annually) from 2017 to 2019. Fortunately I am not on a set income and am still young enough to work. I can assure you I do not receive a 30% increase in my salary annually or every 2 year. My guess is that my neighbors do not either. This was going to be my forever home. But now, I am planning on going someplace that would make more economical sense. Yes expenses go up. Yes, I am paying more for vehicle insurance and vehicle tax but that is my choice. Yes, I am paying a high tax on schools that I will never use, but, it will keep my home valuable, but is also my choice. We all need water, and I think the price increase is a form of gouging. As one of my neighbors mentioned it is highway robbery.

We recently found out that nearby neighborhoods were paying half of what our neighborhood and about 10,000 others are paying. My previous homes in New England (by the water) and North Carolina were both on average \$40 a month.

When I reached out to my councilor, she told me I was late in the game and my perception was that she was defending Blue Granite. She also mentioned this is at a state level which is why I am writing to you.

I am asking you to either veto the proposed increases, or place something in order that they will not be allowed to make any additional increases for (X) years, and then when they do they cannot increase more than (X%) YOY. We all expect price increases but the price increases are unethical.

Please help us. We are being taken advantage of

Thank you, Sincerely

Sheryl R. Molea

¹ See Page two for factual analysis

	Fixed	2017	Jun-18	Proposed 2019	% change 17 vs. 18	% change 17 vs. 19
Distribution		14.64	14.38	14.38	-1.8%	-1.8%
Collection/treatment		52.93	65.77	72.8	24.3%	37.5%
		\$67.57	\$80.15	\$87.18	18.6%	29.0%
Variable (per 1k gal)		6.67	7.55	9.18	13.2%	37.6%
Cost at 3,200 gallons		\$21.34	\$24.16	\$29.38	13.2%	37.6%
Cost at 5,000 gallons		\$33.35	\$37.75	\$45.90	13.2%	37.6%
Monthly bill						
3,200 gallons		\$88.91	\$104.31	\$116.56	17.3%	31.1%
5,000 gallons		\$100.92	\$117.90	\$133.08	16.8%	31.9%

The 3,200 gallons is based on my records for 2 people. Therefore, I assumed 5,000 gallons for a family of 4, which may be conservative.



The Public Service Commission State of South Carolina

Jocelyn Boyd
Chief Clerk/Executive Director
Phone: (803) 896-5133
Fax: (803) 896-5246

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Administrative Department
Phone: (803) 896-5100
Fax: (803) 896-5246

February 10, 2020

Evelyn C. Stutz

Lake Wyle, SC

Dear Evelyn Stutz,

Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- [Docket No. 2019-290-WS](#) - Application of Blue Granite Water Company for Approval to Adjust Rate Schedules and Increase Rates

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Sincerely,
Becky Latimer



* Required Fields

Date: * February 3,

Letter of Protest

Docket No. 2019-290-W/S

Protestant Information:

Name * Evelyn C. Stutz

Mailing Address *

City, State Zip * Lake Wylie, SC

Phone *

E-mail

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? * For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am a current customer.

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. * (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

Blue Granite's prices are already 2 or 3 times what other water companies charge. Several times in 2019 we were on strict water restrictions. They have not upgraded their infrastructure and now expect customers to pay for this. Where is the money going? They certainly have a monopoly in the area.

3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding, if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? *

I would rather not.

Signature Required:

Evelyn C. Stutz